Audit banks

†1000. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of the employees in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General and whether this number is sufficient to perform its functions;

(b) who carries out the audit of public banks;

(c) whether it is a fact that audit work of the banks are got carried out by private agencies just to cover up the scams; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for getting the accounts of the banks audited by the private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There are 60135 employees in Indian Audit and Accounts Department. This number is sufficient to perform the functions.

(b) to (d) The statutory audit of public sector banks is carried out by a team of statutory central auditors at head office/central office level and by number of chartered accountants firms at branch level chosen from one panel each furnished by C&AG and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India containing list of eligible audit firms fulfilling the norms prescribed by RBI. The existing statutory scheme in the Banking Regulation Act, State Bank of India Act and the Nationalised Banks Act and the system evolved for formulating centralized audit policy, appointment of auditors etc., are consistent with international standards.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.